

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The specification has been revised by deleting the first paragraph on page 1, including its subheading. A Substitute Specification Page 1, as well as a Comparison Copy Page 1, have been attached to show the changes made to page 1 of the specification. Also, paragraphs on pages 2 and 15 of the specification have been amended to correct minor editorial problems.

Claims 1-8 and 15-17 are pending in this application. Claims 9-14 have been cancelled.

Applicants note with appreciation the indicated allowability of claims 2-14.

Claim 1 only was rejected for anticipation by Rohrbough (WO 97/05912).

Claim 1 has been amended by combining it with claim 13. Since claim 13 was indicated to be directed to allowable subject matter, claim 1 is allowable.

New independent claim 15 is a combination of original claims 1 and 12 and includes an additional limitation concerning the relative positioning of the weight end and the peg relative to the rear shell portion. Since claim 12 is directed to allowable subject matter, new independent claim 15 is allowable.

New independent claim 16 is a combination of original claims 1 and 14. Since claim 14 is directed was held to be directed to allowable subject matter, claim 16 is allowable.

New claim 17 depends from claim 16 but is otherwise a duplicate of allowable claim 9. In view thereof, claim 17 is allowable.

Claims 2-8 are directed to independently patentable subject matter, as was acknowledged in the above-referenced Office Action. These claims now depend from allowable parent claims. Accordingly, claims 2-8 are also in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance, and a corresponding notification at an early date is requested.

Application No. 10/826,543
Amendment
Reply to Office Action of August 8, 2005

PATENT

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at (415) 273-4730 (direct dial).

Respectfully submitted,



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**Comparison Copy Page 1**Deletions appear as Overstrike text
Additions appear as Underlined text**INTRAVENOUS CATHETER INTRODUCING DEVICE****~~CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION~~**

~~This application claims priority of Taiwanese Application No. 092131220, filed on November 7, 2003.~~

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**1. Field of the invention**

This invention relates to an intravenous catheter introducing device, more particularly to an intravenous catheter introducing device with a needle cannula which is retractable into a barrel for safe disposal.

2. Description of the Related Art

Referring to Figs. 1 and 2, a self-retracting IV catheter ~~7introducer~~ introducer disclosed in U.S. patent No. 5,989,220 is shown to include a catheter connector assembly including a barrel 10 enclosing a retraction body 11 which has a front portion 111 that carries a needle cannula 12 and that extends through an opening in front of the barrel 10, and a rear portion 112 that is mounted within the barrel 10. The front portion 111 has a connection surface 111a which is frictionally engaged with a corresponding connection surface 131 of a catheter hub 13 so as to prevent rearward retraction of the retraction body 11. A biasing spring 15 is compressed against a ledge 101 at the front of the barrel 10, and a spring seat 113 of the retraction body 11. In use, the needle cannula 12 which extends through a flexible catheter 14 is inserted into a patient's vein to introduce the catheter 14 into the vein for intravenous delivery of fluid. The catheter hub 13 is then separated from the retraction body 11 by forcibly pulling the barrel 10 while holding